

# REBUTTING ARGUMENTS OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1836

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to use these 5 minutes to rebut some of the recent comments of the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

He stood here and he urged that the House not vote for the motion to instruct put forward by the Democratic side. His argument was that that motion committed this House to provide for alternative minimum tax relief, marriage penalty relief, R&D credit extension, and that the Democratic tax alternative had not provided for each of those items.

Let me put it into context. The Democrats came here with an alternative that provided only \$750 billion. It sounds odd, only \$750 billion, but that is a much smaller sum than the \$1.35 trillion that the Republican tax bill provides.

My colleagues can be certain that if we Democrats had thought the country could afford a \$1.35 trillion tax cut, that we would not have left out AMT relief, and we would never come to this floor and give with the right hand income tax relief and then take it back with the alternative minimum tax, the portions of the Internal Revenue Code that do not apply to many Americans today, but will apply under the tax bill brought forward by the majority.

We Democrats would not come with a \$1.35 trillion tax cut that left out pension reform or left out the R&D tax credit. A number of Republicans did not vote for that motion to instruct, but I urge them to work behind the scenes to make sure that the conference follows those instructions, otherwise that conference will be tempted to put virtually all of that \$1.35 trillion in tax relief in the hands of the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans and to leave out pension reform, to leave the IRAs at a mere 2K instead of the \$5,000 that should be allowed.

That conference committee will be tempted to leave out marriage penalty relief or to leave ordinary working families subject to an alternative minimum tax that was never designed to apply to them. That conference committee may be tempted to do so because they will believe that they can provide \$1.35 trillion in tax relief to the very wealthy and then come back again with another tax cut bill for the AMT and another tax cut bill to extend the R&D tax credit, but beware, the Senate may be in other hands very soon.

We may have a majority leader who says that \$1.35 trillion is all the tax relief that America can afford. We may have 41 Senators not willing to end de-

bate on any bill that expands that tax cut to way beyond what is prudent. So the tax bill my colleagues vote for today or tomorrow or at the end of this week may be the only tax relief bill you vote for. If that bill provides only huge cuts to the very wealthy and does not deal with the AMT and the R&D tax credit, does not provide any estate tax relief, although I think my colleagues can be pretty sure it will in that one area, if that one bill leaves the IRA at a mere 2K, then my colleagues' constituents will say we heard about the big tax cut, where is ours?

My colleagues will have to say I did not vote for the Democratic motion to instruct, and we ended up with a \$1.3 trillion tax cut that left you out. I could have done something about it, but I did not because I wanted to stick with my party.

We may only have one tax cut bill this year. We may have only one tax cut bill this Congress, and I hope that those on the other side will work behind the scenes, will have access to the bipartisan conference that is really drawing the tax bill, and will say do not leave these critical elements out and do not assume that you can feast on appetizers now and eat the meal later.

The diet only provides for \$1.35 trillion in tax cuts, but then the gentleman from Kern County went on to make some statements not about the motion to recommit but rather about the energy crisis in California. And I am sure he will be here tomorrow to explain or retract his remarks, but he said that California should not get any relief because our wounds are self-inflicted.

Do not join the California haters, allow California to regulate the wholesale price of electricity and do not say that our people should suffer on the theory that our wounds are self-inflicted. We will be back an hour from now to detail this energy crisis and explain how the wounds of California are inflicted upon us by mega-corporations based in Texas and the only mistake we made was to trust, to trust those companies who are now taking advantage of this situation.

□ 2130

## COMMENDING WESTERN WISCONSIN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise this evening to honor the many flood relief volunteers who have worked tirelessly these past few weeks throughout my home congressional district along the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin. Through

their many acts of selfless dedication, they rose as one to meet the challenges of adversity brought on by the flooding waters.

In fact, Madam Speaker, Tawni and I are kind of redefining the term "feel your pain," because on Easter morning, Tawni and I and our two little boys, Johnny and Matt, woke up to discover that the Mississippi River was to the east of us rather than to the west of us. We thought now may be a good time to load the boys in a canoe and paddle to high ground to seek safe shelter elsewhere. In fact, many of the church bulletins on Easter morning read "He has risen and so has the river."

While some of us had to temporarily leave our houses and others lost possessions, I believe all of us gained something very valuable being witness to the extraordinary efforts made by friends, neighbors and strangers alike, all helping each other in a shared time of need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to specifically commend both the American Red Cross, who provided over 10,000 meals to residents, emergency workers, and volunteers, as well as providing much-needed temporary shelter for those displaced from their homes, as well as the Salvation Army, who provided additional assistance by preparing meals for weary workers and residents.

In addition, I wish to recognize the men and women of Wisconsin's fire departments, police departments, the National Guard, and all other emergency personnel who worked unceasingly to pump the water out and man the barriers to stem the force of the flooding.

Madam Speaker, lastly, the faith I have always had in our Nation's youth proved to be well founded when the students from the Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy, Fountain City High School, Winona High School, Boscobel and Prairie du Chien High School, as well as students at the University of Wisconsin La-Crosse, Winona State University, and a number of other schools spent their time and, for some, their spring breaks to help fill and stack sandbags and man the dikes and levees during this time of need.

Madam Speaker, the multitude of ways residents of western Wisconsin found to help each other was truly inspiring. It is at times like these when one better appreciates what Wisconsin people are all about. There is still work to be done to recover from this year's flooding and to assure that we are well prepared if such events occur in the future, but we know that the community spirit fostered by the acts of generosity and the selflessness by people of Wisconsin's Third Congressional District will be long remembered long after the mighty Mississippi returns to its gentle and peaceful pace.

I wish to also extend thanks to community leaders who reacted quickly